

# The Library Assistant:

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## EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**The Inaugural Meeting** of the Thirty-Third Session will be held at 6.30 p.m., on Wednesday, 5th October, 1927, in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall. Mr. G. H. Locke, M.A., LL.D., Chief Librarian of Toronto, Immediate Past-President of the American Library Association, etc., will deliver an address on "Canadian Literature and its relationship to American and British literature." The Chair will be taken by Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, M.A., D.Litt., K.C.B., G.B.E., Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum, who will be supported by Viscount Burnham.

A tour of the Guildhall buildings, Art Gallery, Museum, etc., has been arranged for the afternoon, and those intending to take part should assemble at the main entrance to the Guildhall, by 3 p.m. prompt. After this tour tea will be taken in the Crypt, by kind invitation of Mr. Deputy A. C. Stanley-Stone and the members of the City Lands Committee.

### **Sessional Programme. Preliminary Notice.**

**November 23rd.** At the National Library for the Blind, 6.30 p.m. Joint meeting with the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association.

Miss Frost (Worthing) and Messrs. Bolton (Watford), Sayers (Croydon), and Stewart (Bermondsey), will open a discussion on "The proposals of the Departmental Report regarding Urban Libraries."

The Library will be open to inspection from 4.30 p.m., and visitors will be cordially welcomed.

**December 14th.** At Tottenham Town Hall. 7.30 p.m.

**Speaker:** Mr. K. G. Hunt, B.A., F.L.A., Tottenham Public Libraries.

**Subject:** To be announced.

**Chairman:** Mr. Counc. Elderfield, Chairman of the Tottenham Libraries Committee.

Light refreshments will be served at 6.45 p.m., by kind invitation.

*January 11th.* At Fulham. 3.15 p.m. Assemble at the main entrance to Fulham Palace for a tour of the Palace and grounds, lasting until about 5 p.m.

7.30 p.m. General meeting in the Lecture Room, Fulham Central Library, Fulham Road, S.W.6, when the winner of the President's Prize for the best critical essay on the Departmental Committee's Report will read his or her essay.

*Chairman :* Mr. J. E. Walker, F.L.A., Borough Librarian, Fulham.

*February 22nd.* At Sion College Library, Victoria Embankment. 6.30 p.m. Joint meeting with the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association. Messrs. J. G. O'Leary (Bethnal Green), A. Cecil Piper (Richmond), and J. E. Walker (Fulham), will open a discussion on "The cataloguing recommendations of the Departmental Report."

*March.* At Wandsworth. Details to be arranged.

*April 18th.* At Ilford. 5 p.m. Assemble at Seven King's Library Hall for tea, by kind invitation.

6.0 p.m. Proceed by tram to the new Central Library, which will be open for inspection.

7.15 p.m. General meeting in the Children's Room, Central Library.

*Speaker :* Miss E. Diamond, A.T.C.L., Ilford Public Libraries.

*Subject :* "Francis Bacon and Classification."

*Chairman :* Chairman of the Ilford Libraries Committee.

*May 16th.* At Kew Gardens and Brentford. 3.0 p.m. Assemble at the main entrance to Kew Gardens, on Kew Green. Ramble through the Gardens, terminating at Brentford Gate. Cross river to Brentford Ferry, seeing "Old England" and other interesting historic scenes *en route*.

5.0 p.m. Tea in the Lecture Room of the Brentford Public Library, by kind invitation.

6.0 p.m. Inspection of special exhibition of antiquities and rare books and MSS. housed in the building.

7.0 p.m. General meeting.

*Speaker :* Mr. F. A. Turner, F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A., Scot.

*Subject :* To be announced.

*Chairman :* To be announced.

*June.* Annual Meeting at Birmingham. Details in course of arrangement.

**A Dance**, on a considerably larger scale than any yet arranged, will be held on February 8th. Full particulars will appear in due course. Cricket matches, a tennis tournament, and monthly rambles are projected for the summer months.

The Hon. Editor will be greatly obliged if members and Secretaries of Divisions will be good enough to report to him any irregularities or errors concerning the receipt of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT. Everybody concerned is anxious to make the address list as correct as possible. This cannot be done without co-operation. Please do not allow journals to be sent for months, to members who have left the service, before informing somebody who can rectify the error.

**The Essay Competition** announced last month has aroused a great deal of interest amongst members. At the last Council Meeting it was decided that should a provincial member be declared the winner, the appropriate Division should be requested to pay the third-class return fare to London. The winner will thus be enabled to read the winning essay at the January meeting of the Association in London. Should the provincial member be outside a Division it is suggested that the London Council of the Association should pay the cost of attendance.

This is the season of **Conferences**. The President, the Secretary, and five members, it will be recalled, are attending the Jubilee Conference of the Library Association at Edinburgh. The special greetings of our Association to the L.A., will of course, be left to the President to deliver. We are sure the Conference will be a very memorable one, and sincerely hope that constructive proposals will be made for the settlement of the professional associations on a logical and common sense basis, and that active steps will be taken to obtain the adoption of the proposals of the Departmental Report.

The Hon. Editor attended the **A.S.L.I.B. Conference** at Trinity College, Cambridge, and had the pleasure of opening a discussion on "The Reference Libraries of London : is a Union Catalogue a practicable proposition ?" A brief report of the Conference will be included in next month's issue.

The holidays over, students will now begin to think of examinations again. Page 181 of the last issue contained information about the **A.A.L. Correspondence Classes**, to which assistants may like to refer. As we pointed out before, the results of the last examinations were highly creditable to tutors and students of the Classes, and the important fact that the fees are remarkably low, should bring them within the reach of everybody.

The attention of those interested is drawn to the inaugural meeting of the **London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association** to be held in October at Caxton Hall. The speaker will be Mr. S. A. Pitt, Chief Librarian of Glasgow, and his subject is the Departmental Committee's Report. Further details may be obtained from Mr. W. B. Thorne, Public Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, E.14.

We regret that the name of Mr. L. Chubb was inadvertently omitted from the list of members of the Finance Committee, printed last month.

There is a slight revision of the list of tutors for the Correspondence Classes. Mr. Woodbine's name should be deleted from Section 2, and Mr. W. H. Phillips (North-West Division) should be inserted in Section 4.

**The Next Meeting of the Council** will be held at the National Library for the Blind, on Wednesday, October 12th, at 7 p.m.

At the risk of becoming a bore, we again deplore the apparent lack of interest taken in this journal. Why did we receive no correspondence on Mr. Lamb's very controversial and provocative article. The vitality of the readers of a magazine is usually manifested by the way they react to strongly expressed criticism. Surely everybody did not agree with Mr. Lamb's attitude. What do our members want? Give them a junior's reflections on cataloguing or an experienced chief's views on an epoch-making (if disappointing) report, and the result is just the same—blank silence or inarticulate criticism.

With this number re-commences "**Recommended Books.**" Mr. Eric Haslam, B.A., (Diplomate of London Univ. Sch. of Librarianship), will be responsible for this feature, and it is confidently expected that he will contribute useful lists of books every month. We hope everybody will gain knowledge of some books hitherto new to them, but we especially recommend younger members to the lists. Apropos of this, those who buy poetry may like to know that the handsome edition of Cotton's poems published a few years ago may now be had "re-remaindered" at five shillings. This is a third of its original cost, and is remarkably cheap. It is, of course, already in the stock of every library.

### **SUSSEX IN ROMANCE AND VERSE.\***

By ETHEL GERARD.

The material at the disposal of any research worker on the subject of my paper is extremely varied, for Sussex possesses one of the most extensive of English county literatures.

Certain events in her history have, in themselves, constituted a literature of their own—as for instance, the landing of William the Conqueror, and the Battle of Hastings; the Baron's War; the threatened Napoleonic invasions; the wave of Revivalism which at one time swept across the county; the illicit trade of smuggling—each in their own particular way have afforded themes both to historians and romance writers; while her natural beauties, the fascination of the Downs, the mystery of the Weald, the murmur and gleam of the sea—have in their turn inspired the poets.

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\* A Paper read to the South Coast Division (Eastern Section) of the Association of Assistant Librarians, on Wednesday, the 19th of January, 1927.

As I am confining my paper to imaginative literature, and as poetry is an older, and more perfect and personal expression of literary art than the novel, I will begin by talking first of some of the poets connected with our county, and of the influence that Sussex—and more especially the Downs—has had upon their work.

It is the great romantic, silent yet ever speaking ridge of hills, stretching from end to end of the county, with their outstanding beacons of Chanctonbury and Ditchling, and the rolling Weald below, that has been a source of unending inspiration to our poets.

In the dim twilight of the falling dusk it is easy to imagine their wind-swept heights again peopled with those whose weapons are still to be found in the ploughed fields of the ridges.

To her sensitive and imaginative lovers

“The Downs are peopled then :

Fugitive, low-browed men

Start from the slopes around

Over the murky ground

Crouching they run with rough wrought bow and spear,

Now seen, now hid, they rise and disappear,

Lost in the gloom again.”

The true Sussex man is attuned to his surroundings. In thought, speech and gesture he is closely akin to the great Downs themselves—he is rugged, quiet ruminative and strong—and these characteristics—as I shall presently point out—are peculiarly marked in the poetry of our county.

Michael Drayton in his quaint “Poly-Olbion” gives the earliest poetical picture of Sussex—and the little coterie of poets who gathered in the western portion of the county at the end of the 18th, and beginning of the 19th centuries, Collins, Hayley, Blake, Crocker, and Charlotte Smith, have all rendered her their tributes. Strangely however, England’s greatest lyric poet—Shelley—although a Sussex man by birth, remained strangely irresponsive to the charm and influence of his native county. The languorous beauty of the South appealed to him more strongly than did the austere bareness of the Sussex downland.

Swinburne, however, acknowledged and sang of “the wind-swept freshness of the Downs”; Tennyson of

“Green Sussex fading into blue

With one grey glimpse of sea.”

and Henley of the

“Downs, like uplands in Eden.”

While Francis Thompson’s lovely “Ode to the setting sun” and his poem “Daisy,” have immortalised Storrington for all time.

Yet, all these are more or less fugitive songs from the pens of poets who have felt the fascination of the

“Bold and majestic downs, smooth fair and lonely”

and the romance and natural beauties of the county, yet have failed to become soaked in her atmosphere, or to touch the hidden secret she reveals only to certain of her lovers. One wonders to what rosy heights Swinburne—for instance—would have soared had he but drunk deeply enough of the rich wine of Sussex inspiration.

There are, however, some poets—minor poets—the superior critic has sometimes termed them—who have come more completely under her spell, and have rendered fine poetic tribute to our county's honour, and of these Rudyard Kipling still heads the list.

His fine poem "Sussex" holds its own as the most popular, the most quoted, the most imitated of any of the Downland songs. Its popularity is easily understood when we think how it breathes the true spirit of the uplands—windswept, bare, strong, half pagan, and reminiscent of old gods, and the early warriors who have left their marks upon the chalk.

It is so well known to you all and has been quoted so frequently that I almost hesitate to do so again—yet no paper on modern Sussex verse would be complete without the inclusion of what are some of its most representative verses.

"We have no waters to delight  
Our broad and brookless vales—  
Only the dewpond on the heights  
Unfed, that never fails,  
Whereby no tattered herbage tells  
Which way the season flies—  
Only our close-bit thyme that smells  
Like dawn in Paradise.

Here through the strong unhampered days  
The tinkling silence thrills,  
Or little, lost Down churches praise  
The Lord who made the hills :  
But here the Old Gods guard their round  
And, in her secret heart,  
The heathen kingdom Wilfrid found  
Dreams, as she dwells, apart."

I have heard a very superior critic say that Kipling is a better agriculturist than he is a poet—That dewponds *have* been known to fail, and the thyme *scents* and not *smells*, and that even a poet can scarcely claim to know what the dawn is like in Paradise ! But I think you will agree that such criticism may be taken for what it is worth, for there is no denying the fact that Kipling is one of the favoured who has gazed upon the white stone of our county's inspiration, and has interpreted his vision in the form of an unforgettable poem.

Scarcely second in quality and popularity to Kipling, if less well known, are the haunting lines of Hilaire Belloc's "South Country."

"The great hills of the South Country  
 They stand along the sea :  
 And its there walking in the high woods  
 That I could wish to be,  
 And the men that were boys when I was a boy  
 Walking along with me.

I never get between the pines  
 But I smell the Sussex air,  
 Nor I never come on a belt of sand  
 But my home is there ;  
 And along the sky the line of the Downs  
 So noble and so bare.

I will gather and carefully make my friends  
 Of the men of the Sussex Weald,  
 They watch the stars from silent folds  
 They stiffly plough the field.  
 By them and the God of the South Country  
 My poor soul shall be healed."

This poem with its delicate ingenuous rhythm could only have been written by a man who was a great lover of our county—and although Mr. Belloc's poetry is fragmentary and uneven in quality he has given us at least one good Sussex poem.

Less well known than the work of either Kipling or Belloc—but in some ways, of even greater interest, by the fact that their author is a Sussex man bred and born—are the poems of Charles Dalmon.

Dalmon was born at Shoreham, and claims descent from William Damon, lute player to Queen Elizabeth. Some of his early work dates a little before that of Kipling or Belloc—but a volume of his lyrics appeared in 1922, with the dedication of "The love of a lifetime to Chanctonbury most beautiful of all the Downs," and a new volume of his poems "Singing as I go" has just been published. Some of his work is delightful, with a peculiar delicate charm about it which is particularly evidenced in his lyric "Dew on the Downs." In it he gives his delicate fancy full sway.

"When we are fast asleep  
 Do pitying angels fly  
 Low down the sky  
 And weep ?  
 For they must see, each day,  
 How, for the devil's toys,  
 We throw God's joys  
 Away.  
 Must see from heaven above  
 How we, in lust and greed,  
 Pay little heed  
 To love.

And through our lives forgo  
 All that would bring more near  
 God's kingdom here  
 Below."

Possibly no poet has come more completely under her spell or sung more charmingly of Sussex than did Arthur F. Bell—by whose death a year or so ago, she lost one of her truest lovers. Although he died in early middle life he left, beside his fugitive work, two charming books, "Dear land of the heart," and "The Happy Phantom," in praise of his beloved "land of down and dream." It is difficult to say whether his best work appears in his prose or verse, but both have the true Sussex atmosphere. His delightful poem in "Praise of West Sussex," with its wistful final verse is one of his best.

"O land that holds my heart in fee  
 Where'er my feet may roam  
 Dear land of down and weald and sea  
 I hear you call me home.  
 Never the south wind sings or sighs  
 But the voice of your woods will fill  
 The mean and empty leagues between,  
 And my heart grows faint for the things unseen,  
 For coombe and hurst and Sussex skies  
 And the breast of a Sussex hill."

The same wistful note, though struck in a different key, is sounded in a sonnet by Wilfrid Scawen Blunt. Blunt who had something of Byron's fascination and mystery, and was a wanderer over three continents—turned again in the latter years of his life back to Sussex, and in his sonnet to Chanctonbury Ring sang :

"Dear checker-work of woods, the Sussex Weald !  
 If a name thrills me yet of things of earth,  
 That name is thine. How often I have fled,  
 To thy deep hedgerows, and embraced each field,  
 Each lag, each pasture,—fields which gave me birth  
 And saw my youth, and which must hold me dead."

F. W. Orde Warde wrote among others, one particularly delightful poem, in praise of Sussex, in which he sings :

"This is a song of the Sussex land  
 Where the huddled thorns lie low,  
 Or with arms of iron embattled stand,  
 And the briers cling with many a hand  
 As they writhe at the tempest's blow :  
 While the gorse and brake, like a golden snake  
 Creep up through the grass aglow."

In this poem he pays a graceful tribute to Sussex women, for he says they :



" . . . walk in an easier grace,  
And their beauty is born of the flower and thorn.  
Like a heaven that over-spills."

While of her men he goes on to say, truthfully, they

" . . . have the freedom of the brine  
They are stiff as the Sussex clay,  
And stubborn as branches that entwine  
With the breath of a strength that is divine  
And the sting of the Channel spray."

Only one, moved with unusually sympathetic understanding of the characteristics of Sussex people, and intensely responsive to the natural beauties of this county could have penned these lines.

Many of the verses of Mr. Arthur Beckett are full of Sussex allusions and dialect and most of them go with a swinging metre. His " Song o' the Sussex men " has been adopted as a sort of Sussex anthem by the Society known as " The Men of Sussex," and is always sung by them at their annual dinner in London. It is a long poem of ten stanzas with choruses, and sings of the exploits of the famous sons of Sussex—beginning with her three Saints: Wilfrid, Cuthman and Dunstan, and proceeding by way of John Dudeney, the self-taught downland shepherd, who ultimately became a Lewes schoolmaster, Tom Paine of " The Rights of Man " fame, Tom Tipper brewer of the famous beer said to be worth " a pound a quart," Shelley the poet, Richard Cobden who was responsible for the repeal of the Corn Laws—to the final hero—but I will quote the climax:

" The Devil come to Sussex dunnamany year ago,  
He run up an' down the county—here and there and to—  
an' thro',  
He saw the land was sweet an' fair, and fine in every way  
Says he: ' I'll settle here fur life '—  
You'll find un there to-day? "

Mr. G. D. Martineau has also included a number of dialectal verses in his last volume of poems " The Way of the South Wind,"—which to those of us interested in Sussex books, possesses an additional interest in the fact that it was issued by the Vine Press, at Steyning.

Tender and delightful tributes were also paid to Sussex by some of the young men writing during the war years, A. B. Norman, Philip Johnson, W. G. S. Whiting and others, minor poets admittedly—yet some of their work, while imitative, had the true Southdown ring about it, and was astonishingly free from affectation.

Taken as a whole there were certain outstanding features characteristic of their work. Most of their poems breathed a passionate love of the county, especially of those localities with which the writers had been most familiar; an understanding love of nature and her varying moods; a joyous appreciation of simple and clean things; and a wonderful absence of allusion to the carnage and terror by which they

must often have been surrounded at the time they were writing. Most of it voiced the aspirations and ideals of youth, plaintive notes of home sickness, and of regret for the land they might not see again, while in common with the majority of poetry appearing during those years, there was very little love poetry among it.

Many of these traits continue to characterise the work of our post-war poets, G. D. Martineau, Maud Slessor, Rupert Croft Cooke, Ruth Wainwright, some of whose verse reflects, to a very marked degree, whether consciously or not, the influence of Kipling and Belloc :

Let me give one or two examples :

" When I am dead and do not know  
Night from day, or heat from cold,  
Lay me where the south winds blow  
Up the cliff and over the wold,  
' Twere strange if there I never knew  
When over the Downs a south wind blew."

Or :

" The great Long Man of Wilmington gleams white against  
the green  
Of whale-backed hills that stretch and bend with the  
marches in between  
And the winds are singing stories of a long forgotten day  
When the Downs were red at Senlac where the Saxon  
leader lay."

and again :

" Our scanty trees are gnarled and bent  
Our flaming gorse is strong and sweet."

As will be noticed by even the fragmentary examples I have given a great similarity of theme, metre and even rhythm distinguishes our Sussex verse.

It is not great poetry—it does not display marked originality, much of it is imitative—especially the work of the younger writers who display, sometimes rather glaringly the faults of youth and inexperience, but it certainly has an individuality of its own, with a tunefulness and freshness about it, like a "tang of the South Down breeze."

I now come to the work of the romance writers. Their names rise in such rapid succession and so many of them are there, that I shall only have time to give a passing mention to some. We will commence with the historical writers.

The witty Horace Smith, joint author of the famous "Rejected Addresses," must be regarded as the father of Sussex romantic fiction. In 1826 he published his "Brambletye House," or "Cavalier and Roundheads," a romance after the style of Scott connected with a ruined mansion of that name still existing in Ashdown Forest. He introduced as characters in it, Charles II, Milton, Marvel, Nell Gwyn,

and Lady Castlemaine. It ranks among the best imitations of Scott and has been frequently republished.

In 1860 William Harrison Ainsworth published his well-known "Ovingdean Grange," which, as you know, describes the journey of Charles II through the county after his flight from the Battle of Worcester and his subsequent escape to France from off the Sussex coast. The hero of "The Constable of the Tower," by the same author, was a Sussex man—Sir John Gage, of Firl— and in his official capacity attended the unfortunate Dudley to the block.

The Rev. Edward E. Crake for many years Rector of Jevington, was the author of several novels and tales dealing with incidents in our county history. His "House of Walderne," was a tale of the Waldron district in the days of the Baron's War; while his "Tragedy of the Dacres" retells the story of Lord Dacre of Hurstmonceaux who, in 1541 was executed on Tower Hill for his share in a poaching affair.

A charming tale of Sussex in the days of the Young Pretender, is one entitled "White Webs," from the pen of Mrs. H. D. Everett, who writes under the pseudonym of "Theo Douglas."

The Napoleonic plots of the 18th century form the theme of several good novels, among which are Warwick Deeping's "House of Spies," and Horace Hutchinson's "Crowborough Beacon," and "A Friend of Nelson," the last mentioned however, must not be followed too closely for historical accuracy.

Deeping also stages his "Red Saint" against a background of the Baron's War and the Battle of Lewes.

Blackmore's "Springhaven" deals with the Eastbourne and Pevensey district at the time of Napoleon's threatened invasion. In it are allusions to the beacons kept in readiness to awaken the country in case an attack was attempted at night. There are several amusing characters in it and the dialogue is good. The same historical style appears in "Alice Lorraine," by the same writer, in which he throws an air of romance over the Chanctonbury neighbourhood and introduces as one of the characters, an old astrologer who is said to be buried within the Ring itself. In the opening sentences of this book he pays a well deserved compliment to "the road that leads from Steyning to the Ring." "Westward of that old town Steyning, and near Washington and Wiston, the lover of an English landscape may find much to dwell upon. The best way to enjoy it is to follow the path along the meadows, underneath the inland rampart of the Sussex hills.

Any man here, however sore he may be from the road of life, after sitting awhile and gazing, finds the good will of his younger days revive with a wider capacity. Though he hold no commune with the heights so far above him, neither with the trees that stand in quiet audience soothingly, nor even with the flowers still as bright as in his childhood, yet to himself he must say something—better said in silence. Into his mind, and heart, and soul, without any painful knowledge or the noisy trouble of thinking, pure content with his native

land and its claim on his love are entering. The power of the earth is round him with its lavish gifts of life, bounty from the lap of beauty, and that cultivated glory which no other land has earned."

Though unable to express them so well, many of us must have had thoughts akin to these as we have wandered across our Downland tracks.

The smuggling trade with which Sussex was so closely connected in the 18th century has suggested the plot of quite a number of tales. H. B. Marriott Watson's "House on the Downs" is a smuggling tale of the Chichester district, Julian Corbett's "Business in Great Waters," George Bartram's "The Longshoreman," Violet Simpson's "Bonnet Conspirators," and Alfred Ollivant's "The Gentleman," all deal with the same theme.

Two delightful novels "Sussex Iron" and "Sussex Oak" are from the pen of Lewis Lusk a writer who has caught something of the true Wealden atmosphere of an earlier time. "Sussex Iron," as its title implies, describes the days when the great iron industry of our county was at its prime. It also deals with the Maryan persecutions and one of its principal characters is Richard Woodman, that fine Sussex martyr, who, with nine others was burnt for his faith at Lewes on June 22nd, 1557, and to whose memories the grey stone column now stands outside the town on Cliffe Hill, overlooking the scene of the martyrdom.

Another romance of the iron founding time in East Sussex, and conveying much of the atmosphere of a stern past is "Hurlock Chase," by G. E. Sargent.

Frederick Harrison's "Rupert Dudleigh" and "From Playground to Battlefield," are tales of Sussex interest of the early days of the last century; his "1779" is a tale of Old Shoreham, and of an attempt by the French to attack the town in that year. One of the characters in it is Miller Oliver of Highdown fame. Maud Stepney Rawson has written a number of tales centring in and around Rye. "The Apprentice" being a romance of that fascinating old Cinque Fort in the early days of the 19th century; while her "Tales of Rye Town"—stories from the time of Elizabeth onwards are a delicate embodiment of the sentiment of the place.

Rudyard Kipling has chosen a background of Sussex legend and scenery for two of his most delightful books "Puck of Pook's Hill" and "Rewards and Fairies,"—two books which should be read by every true Sussex child—old or young.

An interesting Sussex man, taken by Mrs. Inchbold as the principal character in her fine novel "The Letter Killeth," was born at Rotherfield in 1741. He was George Gilbert, the son of a carpenter who enlisted into the army and died when his boy was only four years of age. Before he was 18 the lad had been in turn an errand boy, a farm labourer, a carpenter—and in his eighteenth year he followed his father's example and joined the army. After a wild and adventurous career—in which he

was engaged in fighting against the French—he returned to England and was caught in the tide of Revivalism, which was at that time passing over the country. He became an earnest “Methodist,” and conducted religious services among his fellow soldiers. After a while he obtained permission to go and work at Heathfield Park on the recently purchased estate of his old commander, General Elliot, who afterwards became Lord Heathfield. At that time the neighbourhood was notorious for the immorality and ignorance of the people, and Gilbert’s influence had a remarkable effect upon his associates. After receiving his discharge from the army he became a travelling preacher and it was said that so great was his eloquence that no preacher since the days of Whitfield had a more powerful mastery over the feelings of his hearers. For many years he preached in East Sussex, his little self-constituted diocese comprising about sixteen towns and villages.

Miss M. L. Arthur of Keyner, published in 1909 under the pseudonym of “George David Gilbert,” a novel entitled “To my King ever faithful.” It tells the love-story of George IV and Mrs. Fitzherbert and naturally it describes the gay life in Brixton at the end of the 18th century. Quite recently A. H. Bennett has chosen the same theme for his novel “The Prince’s love affair.”

Turning from the historical novels we find a number of modern novelists of widely diverse styles, painting their characters, as it were, against a background of local colour. George Gissing painted his “Thyrza,” against a background of Eastbourne; Tickner Edwardes, has immortalised the Burgham district—his “Tansy” deals with Southdown shepherd life in West Sussex, and “The Honey Star” with life on a bee-farm in the same neighbourhood; Vincent Brown, whose “Magdalen’s husband” started critics talking a few years back of a Sussex Hardy, has chosen a Mayfield background for several of his novels. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose early Sherlock Holmes mystery tales were among some of the best of their type ever written, and were largely responsible for the early success of the *Strand Magazine*, chose the Brighton road in the old coaching and duelling days for several of the scenes of “Sir Nigel,” while his “Rodney Stone” has one of the finest descriptions in English fiction of a prize fight. Sir Arthur regards the old prize ring “as an excellent thing from a national point of view,” and it is certainly from his personal experience of boxing, and his large acquaintance of the history of the ring that his book gets its true atmosphere. Sheridan, George IV, Nelson, Lady Hamilton, and other nobilities also figure as characters in the book.

“Magpie House” by Andrew Soutar is a tale of the Downs between Seaford and Eastbourne. The book has nothing remarkable in it in the way of plot, but it has one or two good characters, especially that of Reuben Blunt the Southdown shepherd, who with the spirit of the fighter within him had dwelt for more than sixty years in the vast silence of the Downs, and with his wonderful gift of imagination peopled

them again with the "Phantoms" of those who had fought there in the past. Early Britons, Romans, and smugglers and wreckers were equally familiar to him, and wonderful, though often highly imaginative, were the tales he told of them. Verity Lavender, the blind heroine of the book, and Adam Black with the fighting legacy of his forefathers in his blood, but with his strength and gentleness, were true children of the Downs.

George Moore, in the days before he wrote for such an exclusive public, laid the scene of one of his novels—the much discussed "*Esther Waters*," in the neighbourhood of Shoreham. Many of its scenes are laid in the town of Shoreham and Buckingham House is disguised in it under the name of "Woodville." Some of you may remember the fierce controversy that raged round this tale of racing life at the time of its publication. Whether in those days people were more easily shocked than they are to-day, or whether my moral judgment is warped, I should not care to say—but after reading the book twice I cannot say that I see anything in it to give rise to the storm of recrimination it aroused at the time of its publication. It deals with the life of a racing stable, and racing stables being what we know them to be, we can scarcely expect to find in it flowers of speech to bloom in Victorian drawing rooms!

An interesting contrast however, as a tale of racing life, is that of "*Boy Woodburn*" a racing tale of the Cuckmere district by Alfred Ollivant—it is a finely written book, and one in which the heroine, who gives her name to the title, is one of the most delightful in our gallery of Sussex characters. John Oxenham has chosen Bungalow Town for some of the scenes in his "*Mary-all-alone*"; and Geoffrey Whitworth sends his hero, Robin West to the same mecca of suburban Bohemians. Gilbert Frankau's war novel, "*Peter Jackson*," has several chapters dealing with life in Shoreham camp at the time "*Kitchener's men*" were stationed there in the winter of 1914-15. Many of the scenes in Helen Robert's "*A free hand*," are laid in Lewes and Brighton, and she has chosen the latter place as the background for several incidents in "*The discreet adventure*." Her first novel "*Old Brent's daughter*," describes the western borders of the county.

Other novelists of such widely differing styles and methods as Arnold Bennett, Robert Hugh Benson, A. K. Ingram, Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, A. E. W. Mason, Alfred E. Carey, and H. G. Wells, have introduced Sussex incidents into more than one of their novels—but none of them can be said to have added any really appreciable weight to Sussex fiction.

Two of the most remarkable psychological novels published during the last few years were written by one having close association with this county, they were: "*Two Men*" published in 1919, and the second part of the romance "*One Woman*" which appeared in 1921. Their author was Alfred Ollivant, whose death occurred a week or two ago,

and of whose earlier works, one, "Boy Woodburn," I have already mentioned.

In these two novels, there are to be found, some of the most remarkable and outstanding figures in recent fiction. Each of which, is in itself, a masterpiece and could only have been called into existence by one whose experience of the psychology of human character has been wide and varied.

Mr. Ollivant, was I believe, born in Sussex and was the son of Colonel Ollivant of Nuthurst. He was educated at Rugby and after passing out of Woolwich with brilliant honours took a commission in the Royal Artillery in 1893. He was sent with his regiment to India where he met with an accident which necessitated his sending in his resignation in 1895, and for ten years or so he was kept on his back. It was while captive in this manner he wrote his first book, "Owd Bob," a wonderful tale of dog-life, which has become almost a classic and ranks with some of the animal stories of Jack London, "Danny," "The Gentleman," "The Royal Road," "The Brown Mare," and "Boy Woodburn," followed, each in its own way different in style and treatment, yet breathing the fresh-air and joyousness of life, and in this peculiarity one is reminded of a certain likeness between him and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Perhaps, however, the two modern novelists who have interpreted Sussex most truly and intimately are two women writers—Mrs. Henry Dudeney and Sheila Kaye Smith. Their styles are dissimilar and yet they have certain characteristics in common. Their plots, particularly those of Miss Kaye Smith, are rarely startling or crowded with incident, and more often than not their novels end sadly or break off without an apparent ending at all, and yet, there is a strength verging almost to harshness in some of their work, an intimate knowledge of localities, and the characteristics of the country people, but with that the likeness between them ends.

Mrs. Dudeney is a writer of much experience for her first book "A Man with a Maid," was published in 1897. For some years she and her husband—who, by the way, is the Henry Dudeney of puzzle renown—lived in the quaint old 17th century house in Angmering, known as "The Pigeon House." In passing, I may say the name of this house has nothing to do with pigeons, as local legend would have that it has, but it is a corruption of the name of a Portuguese wool merchant, Pyjoun, who is known to have lived in Angmering in the 18th century. The massive stairway in the existing Pigeon House is supposed to have been taken from his house, which probably stood upon the site before the present one was built. This house appears in her book "Spade Work" as being the home, for many generations of the Sadgroves, of Grandmother Sadgrove, that wonderful old autocrat of 79, who with her independent spirit and splendid physique had lived so full and long a life there; of Juniper Sadgrove her grand-daughter, typical of the



restless girlhood of the present day, upon whose wild fiery soul the peace and passivity of Angmering acted only as an irritant urging her to seek the wider life beyond its limits.

"The Runaway Ring" published in 1919 also describes Angmering under the name of "Top Tree," in this book she gives us one of her best portraits in the character of Frusannah Floate, poor lovable Frusannah with her weaknesses and her incurable failing, yet with her broad charity and kindliness. Rural life with its monotony and hidden tragedies and comedies, in the Shoreham district form the theme of her novels "What a woman wants" and "The Secret son"; "Manhood End," takes its name from the Hundred of Manhood, that somewhat neglected peninsula in West Sussex, and the background of "The head of the family" is Lewes, where Mrs. Dudeney now lives.

Personally I think Mrs. Dudeney is at her best in her delineation of her women, they are not of the colourless rural order beloved by some novelists, there is something elemental and untamed about them. Many of them according to the existing standards of society are anything but "Perfect ladies"—but they are never dull, nor insipid. On the other hand, her men—as a rule—are about the most unpleasant set to be met with between the pages of Sussex fiction. Her rustics are generally drunken boors, and her "gentlemen" uninspired prigs. She seems to take a delight in marrying her wild gipsy-like women to her priggish men, and the inevitable trouble which such unions bring affords the theme for several of her books. Nevertheless though her men and women are generally more or less unpleasant people, and her tales unfold with the seamy side outward, she holds her reader's interest by the power of the realistic truthfulness and the knowledge and delicate skill with which her work is done.

She is also past-mistress of that most difficult of all mediums of imaginative writing, the art of the short story, and her skill in this direction is particularly evidenced in her "Fly leaves."

By many people Sheila Kaye Smith is considered to be the most interesting of our Sussex novelists, and one of the most promising of the younger writers of to-day. Not only is she a novelist, she has made excursions into the byways of verse, criticism and biography, and even, since her marriage, into theology. She is a student of human nature and well knows the fads, follies, and foibles to which we are all prone. Prior to her marriage she spent most of her life in East Sussex, in the neighbourhood of Rye and Winchelsea, and it is against the background of marsh and meadow, wet earth and shifting mist, that most of her scenes are painted. Her work is arresting by its strength and virility; and so evidenced was it in her first book "The tramping Methodist," that critics, were misled by her name and took it to be the intentionally misleading pseudonym of a male writer. The Sussex of which she writes is not the Sussex of the tripper, the summer visitor or the motor cyclist, nor are her characters those of the shrill-voiced young persons.



of the sea-fronts. Her Sussex is a county of strong harsh dignity, of green fields, of rotating crops, of sweating horse and men, while her characters are nearly all rustics, who speak the pure English dialect of the South, free from Cockneyism or the inflection of the north.

Her finest characters are her men, and she has given us a splendid gallery of typical sons of Sussex. I sometimes think there must be a strain of rebel blood in her own veins so dearly does she love a rebel and so attractive can she make him. Starbrace, the hero of her novel of that title, is one of her finest characters. He, the son of a poor and disgraced man, brought up as a labourer's son, but having in his veins gentle blood and a love for the open air and the freedom of the wet earth, scorns to eat the bread of slavery at his grandfather's price, and with the glorious foolishness of youth runs away and throws in his lot with the smugglers on the Winchelsea marshes in the wild days of the mid 18th century. Fighting, riding, dicing and danger claim him, and though after a while love calls to him, he cannot, and never would be content to live comfortably like a pet in a hutch, and so he rides away on his horse "Pharisee" to court danger, imprisonment, release and finally death charging the Pretender's bodyguard at Preston Pans. It is a fine stirring historical novel.

Her "Spell Land" is a story of a Sussex farm where dwelt two people driven out of the village because they loved unwed. Her "Little England" published in 1918, was a poignant tale of the war, and its effect upon the lives of the villagers in an East Sussex hamlet. The love story running through it of Tom Beatup and Thyrsa Honey is a delightful idyll, but alas with the ending all too many idylls had during those dreadful years of war. Poor Tom who had never made an enemy in his life, and at first only dimly realised the aims of the cause for which he fought, made, together with wild, half-gipsy, misunderstood Jerry Sumption—two of the brave number of Sussex lads who gave their all.

I have no time left to outline the plots of all her novels—but two of them—"Sussex Gorse," and "Tamarisk Town," claim more than a passing mention. The former is a story, rising to almost epic heights, while "Tamarisk Town" should be read and its lesson laid to heart by every aspirant for municipal honours! In time, then we might come to see some considerable alteration in the local policy of some of our sea-side towns! The story of the rise and fall of Marlingate might be the story of the rise and fall of more than one Sussex sea-side town. Edward Monypenny, Mayor of Marlingate, creator and destroyer of the town, with his strength and his weakness, his vanity yet his simplicity and sense of fitness, is an outstanding figure in the portrait gallery of modern English fiction. The elf-like seductive Morgan le Fay, with her inexplicable yet age-long fascination, is drawn as with the etching needle of a master.

The secret of Sheila Kaye Smith's success as a novelist is the fact that she knows and understands the characteristics and foibles of Sussex

people, and that she writes of them as they are. Her characters are not those of men and women who might be met with in any other English county. They are quite unlike Hardy's Dorset people, quite distinct from Phillpotts' Devonshire rustics, they are pure Sussex and it is in her faithful delineation of their characteristics, manners and speech that her power lies. It is a great literary gift to be able to take a handful of rustic characters, and out of their seemingly uninteresting and monotonous lives, weave a tale, devoid of sensational incident or plot, yet so human and true as to captivate the imagination of readers to whom such characteristics and localities are equally unknown.

This is a gift, which, great artist though he was, Meredith did not possess. Although he lived for over forty continuous years in Surrey, and nearly every one of his novels has its home scenes pitched amid her hills, yet he failed to understand the characteristics of the Surrey country people with the intimacy with which Sheila Kaye Smith knows the people of Sussex. If they were introduced at all into his books, they appeared as dull-witted, uninteresting rustics, never so indigenous to the county as a Reuben Blackfield or Robert Fuller.

There are other writers of whom I should like to speak, but I must close with a bare mention of the names of two great writers with which the county and particularly this neighbourhood, is proud to be connected—Richard Jefferies, and W. H. Hudson.

While neither of these masters were romance writers in the manner in which that term has been used this evening, they were two of the greatest interpreters of the romance of nature the world has ever known.

Jefferies suffered one of his recurring illnesses in Worthing at the end of the 80's and dying, as you will remember, at Goring, in 1894, was buried in Broadwater cemetery, in which quiet resting ground now lies his great brother naturalist.

I think you will agree, by the examples I have given, that it is the sights and sounds of our county, its downland villages, with their thatched cottages, and kindly people, its scattered farms, its pleasant old inns and village greens, its rivers with their mill wheels and bridges, which have been, if unconsciously, perhaps the greatest influence in moulding the work of the poets and novelists who constitute—what may be called the Sussex, or the Downland School of writers.

### **THE SUMMER SCHOOL AT ABERYSTWYTH, 1927.**

By L. MONTAGUE HARROD,  
*Croydon Public Libraries.*

The first students to arrive at Aberystwyth for this year's Summer School were three young men who had travelled all night in order that they might have a free day in which to explore the town. They arrived at 7 a.m., and after a dip in the sea were so heartily welcomed at breakfast by the charming Warden of Alexandra Hall, where the students resided, that they realised at once that they were in for a

really good time—and they had it. Fellow students who continued to arrive throughout the day soon made friends with one another, the subject of introduction usually being the library represented. Thus we soon learned that there were assistants from places as far apart as Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dublin, Cardiff and Portsmouth, one energetic young lady even coming over from Rotterdam. Most of the students were already employed in libraries—Municipal, County, National and Private—and were there with the intention of improving their general or special knowledge of library work.

It is evident that the School is highly esteemed in most quarters by the fact that quite a number of the students were granted the time off and all or half expenses were paid by their committees. When it is realised that such well-known librarians as Messrs. Farr, Hutt, Minto, Pacy, Quinn, Sanderson, Williams, Dr. Hall, late of the Public Record Office, and Miss G. Murphy, Secretary of the English Association, dealt with their specialised subjects, the value and popularity of the School needs no emphasis. There were on the average five lectures each day including an occasional evening lecture of general interest. On the first evening, Mr. Pacy gave an opening address in his usual breezy manner, which was greatly appreciated by the large audience. In addition to lectures there were organised visits to the local libraries and demonstrations by experts at the National Library of Wales in bookbinding, printing, the care and renovating of manuscripts and on the photostat. All the students were extremely grateful for these demonstrations, for information which cannot be obtained in any other way was imparted so willingly and skilfully.

One very important feature of this Summer School was the opportunities so admirably arranged by Mr. Hutt for social intercourse and entertainment. Naturally, no one was expected to attend all the lectures, and time during the day was entirely at the disposal of each student. When there were no lectures, indoor and outdoor entertainments were arranged. A concert was held one evening to which students and lecturers contributed, and on another evening a fancy dress ball (to which the staff of the National Library of Wales and students of another Summer School were invited) was held. Sing-songs, both in and out of doors, were frequent and helped to pass a wet hour or to add interest to an outing. The first opportunity was taken of doing Aberystwyth's most popular excursion and visiting the Devil's and Parson's Bridges. An hour's ride on the light railway, from which glorious views of the valleys and hills are to be obtained, brought us to the Devil's Bridge Station which is 680 feet above sea level, and after a short walk we were at the falls which are certainly worth travelling a long distance to see. Despite drizzle, everyone was entirely happy, and returned home with the desire for more ; which desire was realised—and in the minds of some, surpassed—when char-a-banc visits were made to the beautiful Llyfnant Valley and to Hafod.

One of the most pleasing memories of the School is the friendliness of the tutors, who for the time being, dismounted from their pedestals and joined wholeheartedly into every activity of the School. It was certainly one of the best Schools which have been held, and many of the students will endeavour to meet again at Aberystwyth.

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS.

*Books that should not be missed.*

Archer, William. Three Plays; with a foreword by Bernard Shaw. (Constable, 10s.)

"Martha Washington," "Beatriz Juana," and "Lidia," the last suggested by Massinger's "Duke of Florence."

Of the foreword, the T.L.S. says: "It is one of the most gracious and pleasing things that Mr. Shaw has written; and it makes a valuable preface to any study of Archer's work."

Briggs, M. S. The architect in history. (Clarendon Press, 10s.)

Well printed and illustrated, this interesting book traces the evolution of the architect in Europe generally, up to the end of the Middle Ages; in Italy, France and England for the Renaissance period; while for the nineteenth century its scope is confined to England.

Chesterton, G. K. Collected Poems. (Palmer, 10s. 6d.)

"... G. K. C. has never been sufficiently or widely enough acknowledged as the great poet, satirist and moralist, that he is."—R. ELLIS ROBERTS in "The Bookman."

Curtois, H. The Conversion of the English. (S.P.C.K., 6s.)

An attempt to place in the hands of the general reader the substance of Bede's "Ecclesiastical History." Additional information has been inserted from various acknowledged sources to supplement Bede, where necessary.

Fry, Roger. Flemish art: a critical survey. (Chatto & Windus, 6s.)

A reprint of Mr. Fry's Queen's Hall lecture on the exhibition of Flemish art recently held at Burlington House. Full reviews appear in the "New Statesman," and the "T.L.S."

Gordon, R. K. Anglo-Saxon poetry. (Dent, 3s.)

Translations of English poetry written between c. 650 and c. 1000 A.D., including "Beowulf," and the poems attributed to Cynewulf. The book will be useful to the English student, and opens to the general reader a field hitherto practically closed to him.

Graham, Stephen. The gentle art of tramping. (Holden, 6s.)

A delightful volume of essays. All trampers, and especially those who remember "A Vagabond in the Caucasus," and "Undiscovered Russia," will welcome Mr. Graham's latest book. "It is a gentle art; know how to tramp and you know how to live. Manners makyth man, and tramping makyth manners. Know how to meet your fellow-wanderer, how to be passive to the beauty of nature, and how to be active to its wildness and its rigour. Tramping brings one to reality."

Kennedy, A. G. A bibliography of writings on the English language from the beginning of printing to the end of 1922. (Harvard and Yale Univ. Presses, 105s.)

A comprehensive work which will be of use to all research workers in English philology.

Kennedy, G. A. Studdert. The unutterable beauty. (Holder, 3s. 6d.)

The collected poetry of "Woodbine Willie." "He was a gambler too..." is typical of the man, of his fearless faith, and his hatred of cant.

" And, sitting down, they watched Him there,  
 The soldiers did ;  
 There, while they played with dice,  
 He made His Sacrifice,  
 And died upon the Cross to rid  
 God's world of sin.  
 He was a gambler too, my Christ,  
 He took His life and threw  
 It for a world redeemed.  
 And ere His agony was done,  
 Before the westering sun went down,  
 Crowning that day with its crimson crown,  
 He knew that He had won."

Koteliansky, S. S. (tr. and ed.). Anton Tchekhov : literary and theatrical reminiscences. (Routledge, 12s. 6d.)

Contains translations of some hitherto unpublished pieces, among which is the one-act " Tatyana Riepin," a continuation of Souvorin's play of the same name. Tchekhov's play was written as a present to Souvorin, not for publication, and, apart from two copies privately printed by the latter, " Tatyana " first saw the light in English in October, 1925, when Mr. J. C. Squire printed it in the " London Mercury."

Morris, W. A. The mediaeval English sheriff to 1800. (Longmans, 21s.)

The " shire-reeve," as both Exchequer and local government officer, is important in any study of mediaeval administrative history.

Nicoll, Allardyce. The development of the theatre. (Harrop, 42s.)

" A most satisfactory and illuminating book, always learned and never dull, with useful appendices and a wide bibliography."—*Bonamy Dobrée* in " The Nation." A history of the evolution of scenic effect. Professor Nicoll is particularly valuable on the *Commedia Dell'Arte*.

Squire, J. C. (ed.) The Cambridge book of lesser poets. (C.U.P., 8s. 6d.)

Ranges from Richard Rolle of Hampole (c. 1349), to Beeching and Synge.

G. E. H.

#### RECEIVED.

St. Marylebone Public Library : Catalogue and Guide to the Books in the Children's Department. (Boards. pp. 180.)

In its arrangement and scope this catalogue can only be compared to the best of its kind, such as Cannon's catalogue of the Finsbury Children's Library (1905), and the Glasgow (Woodside District) catalogue (1921). The " dictionary " index of authors, subjects and titles serves as a complete and easy " finding list " for those children who are puzzled by the classified form.

All the books (including fiction) are classified by Dewey. A novel and extremely commendable feature is the little essays which preface each division of literature, giving, in a pleasant and easy style, a short survey of English literature. This is an idea which will be imitated. We are sorry to see that in the main, the selection of books does not include many good and deservedly popular stories usually to be found only in adult departments. Children like W. W. Jacobs, *Jane Eyre*, *Notre Dame*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Blake's poems, *The Mill on the Floss*, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *Ollivant's Gentleman*, etc., as much as adults do, and it is a pity to find them not in the juvenile stock of all libraries. We are very surprised to find George Eliot represented only by an abridged *Silas Marner*, not to find Blake's poems at all, and to search in vain for any book of English or French Grammar. The recent adaptation of Lang's translation of Homer is not included,

nor is Waters' fine *School Economic History of England*, nor Innes' *How the League of Nations Works*, nor H. G. Wells's abridged *Outline of History*, nor Macnaghten's *Little Masterpieces from the Greek Anthology*. The latter was noted and recommended in this journal last October.

The format of this catalogue compares badly with some which have been issued lately. It is a pity that such an admirable piece of work was not given a better jacket, for a decorative cover printed on attractively tinted paper costs little more than the ordinary plain and unaesthetic cover.

We can find no acknowledgements to the cataloguing staff. This is to be regretted from many points of view, for it is obviously impossible to compile a catalogue like this one, without making special demands on the energy and skill of many members of the staff. The custom of acknowledging such special service is fortunately becoming much more general than it was. The Chief Librarian of St. Marylebone is to be congratulated on having issued a catalogue which will rank with the best children's catalogues produced since the war.

**Bristol Public Libraries :** syllabus of half-hour talks to children.

This is an attractive little pamphlet which not only records a series of interesting talks, but gives useful lists of books suitable for children, on the appropriate subjects.

**Manchester Public Libraries :** 75th Annual Report.

This record of the countless library activities of the City of Manchester reveals a degree of co-operative unity among the Central City Library departments, and its twenty-five District Libraries which make a Londoner envious. Two illustrations and a plan are given of the new Withington Branch. The site is triangular and the planning is beautiful in its efficiency and economy.

**Canadian Catalogue of Books** published in Canada, about Canada, as well as those written by Canadians, 1925. Compiled by the staff of the Public Library, Toronto, 1926.

**Halifax Readers' Guide**, August.

**Finsbury Public Libraries :** Quarterly Guide for Readers, July.

Notable for its full and excellent catalogue entries. This issue contains a special list of books on optics and optical trades.

**Hornsey Public Libraries :** 28th Annual Report, 1926-27.

**City of Auckland, N.Z. :** 48th Annual Report, 1927.

News of colonial library activities are always welcome. In New Zealand, as here, issues are steadily mounting. Statistics relating to School libraries, lectures, and an extensive branch library system, show that Auckland is well ahead of many New Zealand and Australian libraries.

## THE DIVISIONS.

### SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

#### *Eastern Section.*

**Membership.**—The membership of this Section is 35, consisting of 1 Fellow, 32 Members, and 2 Associate members.

**Meetings.**—Two meetings have been held during the year, both being fairly well attended.

January 19th, 1927, at Public Library, Worthing. Chairman : Miss Marian Frost, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Worthing. Miss E. Gerard read a paper on "Sussex in romance and verse."

April 6th, 1927, at Public Library, Hove. Chairman : Councillor J. Markwick, Chairman of the Hove Library and Museum Committee. Paper read by Miss Purdew, Hove, on "Co-operation between libraries and museums."

*Officers.*—Mr. E. Male (Brighton) was elected Chairman, and Miss G. Dean (Worthing), Hon. Secretary. Members elected to Committee were Miss Gerard (Worthing), Miss Hartnup (Eastbourne), Miss Mardall (Brighton), Miss Young (Brighton).

The Committee desires on behalf of the Section to express its grateful thanks to the Authorities of the Towns where meetings have been held, to Miss Frost, F.L.A., Mr. Lister, and Councillor J. Markwick, for kind assistance rendered. Thanks are also due to the Staffs of the Libraries visited, and to all those who have done so much to ensure the successful working of the section.

The year under review has been a fairly satisfactory one, the papers read and discussed have reached a very high plane. In conclusion, the Committee appeal to the members to rally to the assistance of those responsible, and by enthusiastic co-operation to make the ensuing session an interesting and successful one.

*Balance Sheet for the Year, 1926-1927.*

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in hand, June, 1926	1	14 0½	Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas.		
Rebate from subscriptions.	2	2 9	postage and petty cash		
			expenses ... ..	0	9 2½
			Balance in hand ... ..	3	7 7
	£3	16 9½		£3	16 9½

(Signed) E. W. MALE, *Chairman.*  
G. L. DEAN, *Hon. Secretary.*

*Western Section.*

*Membership.*—The membership of the Western Section is 42, consisting of 3 Fellows, 38 Members, and 1 Associate Member.

*Officers.*—Chairman, Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Summerfield; Sectional Committee: Miss Bennett, Portsmouth; Mr. Cooper, Portsmouth; Mr. Mourant, Southampton; Miss Lea, Bournemouth, Miss Kemish, Winchester, and Mr. Summerfield, Portsmouth (ex-officio).

*Meetings.*—January 20th, 1927, at Southampton. The afternoon was spent in visiting the S.S. *Olympic*, and Southampton Docks. The evening meeting took the form of a Magazine Evening. Chairman: Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., City Librarian, Portsmouth.

March 30th. The meeting arranged at Bournemouth for this date had to be cancelled owing to lack of support.

May 25th, at Winchester. The afternoon was spent in a visit to St. Cross Hospital. In the evening Mr. J. Summerfield read a paper on "Readers I have met." Chairman: Mr. F. W. C. Pepper, F. L. A., City Librarian, Winchester.

*Financial Statement, 1926-27.*

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in hand, June, 1926	4	0 5½	Postage and petty cash ex-		
Rebate from subscriptions.	3	1 5	penses ... ..	0	12 3½
			Purchase of book prize ...	0	7 6
			Expenses of delegates to		
			special Committee		
			Meeting ... ..	1	0 8
			Balance in hand ... ..	5	1 5
	£7	1 10½		£7	1 10½

(Signed) JAMES HUTT, *Chairman.*  
JOHN V. SUMMERFIELD, *Hon. Sec.*

## SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION.

The Inaugural Meeting of the South Western Division will be held at Portsmouth on Wednesday, October 26th, 1927, by the kind permission of Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., City Librarian.

By the courtesy of the R. C. Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Rev. W. T. Cotter, a visit will be paid in the afternoon to the Bishop's Library. The Library contains a very valuable collection of early printed books, including incunabula, and some fine examples of early illumination.

In the evening Mr. F. Cooper will commence a discussion on that part of the Public Libraries Committee's Report dealing with "The library staff."

As this is the first meeting of the new Division it is hoped that as many members and friends as possible will attend.

Further details will be circulated later.

JOHN V. SUMMERFIELD, *Hon. Secretary.*

## NORTHEAST DIVISION : SUMMER EXCURSION.

As there was no response from Members South of the Tyne and Wear to join in the outing to Barnard Castle (as announced in the June number) the destination was changed to Rothbury.

Despite the fact that this excursion was arranged for the same day as the Eclipse, and that the majority of the Members had been out very early in the morning to witness the phenomenon, the party numbered 44 at the tea table.

Some of the Members motored by a less familiar route, and were delighted to find that Northumberland had fresh beauties to unfold. One place of great interest seen was the charming home of the Trevelyan—Wallington Hall.

All formalities in the shape of speech making and votes of thanks were dispensed with, the party being free to go whither their fancy directed them. The grounds of Crag-side, the home of Lord Armstrong, appealed to the more energetic, whilst to those who may be classified as lethargical, the well-wooded valley of the Coquet had an irresistible attraction.

The hour for return came all too quickly. The homeward journey by the Coquet, in the cool of the evening, showed us the beautiful vale at its best. As we passed the famous Angler's Arms at Weldon Bridge (headquarters of many generations of Isaak Walton's disciples), how easy it was to recall some of the "right merrie garlands for North Countrie anglers."

Both the weather and scenery may be summed up in one word : Perfect.  
(*The above Reports were unavoidably held over from the last issue.—HON. ED.*)

## NEW MEMBERS.

Miss Irene Letton (Richmond); Miss H. A. Tillie (Fulham); Miss Catherine McMahon (Chesterfield).

*Associate* : R. J. Parker (Battersea).

## APPOINTMENTS.

\*JERWOOD, Catherine, Asst., Worcester County Library, to be Librarian, St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, Fife.

PURDIE, John Black, Asst., Mitchell Library, Glasgow, to be Chief Assistant, Kilburn Branch, Willesden Libraries. (Five L. A. certificates and Glasgow University Matriculation Certificate. Commencing salary, £203. \*Miss Page, of Wandsworth Libraries, \*Mr. H. Chivers, of Kidderminster, and \*Mr. H. C. Tomkins, of Hornsey, were also selected.)

\* Members of the A. A. L.